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C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 000786

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/25/2013

TAGS: PARM PREL IZ GT UNSC

SUBJECT: GUATEMALAN RESPONSE TO BLOCKING ARAB EFFORTS AT UN
ON IRAQ

REF: STATE 76597

Classified By: PolCouns David Lindwall for reason 1.5 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) In the absence from the country of President Portillo, and the absence from the office of Foreign Minister Gutierrez (due to illness), the Ambassador spoke with Vice Foreign Minister Jorge Perez on March 25 and relayed reftel request that the GOG oppose any effort to convoke a special General Assembly session on Iraq. Perez said he was not familiar with the issue but promised to raise it immediately with Foreign Minister Gutierrez. He promised to inform us of the GOG's views as soon as he was able to get a response from the Minister. At COB he called to say that the GOG would oppose a special session of the UNGA, and that if there were a special open session of the UNSC, Guatemala would speak in support of the U.S.

¶2. (C) On a parallel track, PolOff spoke with Marco Tulio Chicas, Deputy Director of Multilateral Affairs at the MFA on March 25 and conveyed the same points. Chicas promised to advise the Minister and Guatemala's permanent mission at the UN.

HAMILTON